



Head Start/Early Head Start FAQs for Programs

April 9, 2020

In response to circumstances presented by the COVID-19 virus, Head Start Programs have reached out with questions regarding the operations of their programs. The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) knows that your focus is on the health and safety of your staff, students, and families. We want to appreciate each of you for what you are doing creatively to support students in their learning from wherever your program is located.

Please note that the information is changing rapidly and DEED will continue to update information as it becomes available.

Food Services

- 1. I am a Head Start program and I contacted the local school district and they said they were unable to provide meals for our Head Start kids. Can we provide the meals?**
Contact Anne Marie Martin (annmarie.martin@alaska.gov) at the Child and Adult Care Food Program.
- 2. Our local school district will provide meals to our Head Start kids, but they do not provide formula or baby food. Can a Head Start program provide formula or baby food?**
Contact Anne Marie Martin (annmarie.martin@alaska.gov) at the Child and Adult Care Food Program.
- 3. Can a Head Start program provide meal boxes for delivery instead of having families pick them up?**
Contact Anne Marie Martin (annmarie.martin@alaska.gov) at Child and Adult Care Food Program.

Background Checks

- 1. I cannot get fingerprints rolled for someone I want to hire.**
The Background Check Program is still processing applications without fingerprint cards due to the COVID-19 crisis, but that must be requested by the facility by email (bcunit@alaska.gov).
- 2. I want to hire someone who previously had a valid background check done through the Background Check Program.**
If an individual already has a valid background check, their previous application would be connectable for up to 100 days for no fees or fingerprints. The new facility would receive an instant clearance. Individuals who are in the system already without a connectable application, are not being worked quicker than others.

State Grant Questions

- 1. Do I still need to complete my Q3 reporting in Grants Management System (GMS) by April 30th?**

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If a program had expenses in the 3rd Quarter, they should submit their reimbursement request by April 30th for timely processing.

2. Can the state grant be used towards a program's internet costs since Head Start programs now have staff working remotely?

This is allowable to help ensure the safety of Head Start staff while they continue to deliver remote services.

3. Can the state grant be used towards buying laptops for use by Head Start staff who are now working from home?

This is allowable to help ensure the safety of Head Start staff while they continue to deliver remote services.

4. Are Head Starts still required to complete spring checkpoints?

The 2020 Spring check-point data for Teaching Strategies is not required. This is in alignment with the State's decision to cancel spring testing for Elementary.

If you have any other questions about Head Start/Early Head Start, please email:
supanika.ackerman@alaska.gov